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CLAIMS

- 1. Use a compound having NMDA antagonist activity in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS).
- 2. Use according to claim 1 wherein the compound having NMDA antagonist activity is a non-competitive NMDA antagonist.
- 3. Use according to claim 1 wherein the compound having NMDA antagonist activity is a compound of formula (I):

$$R^{1}$$
-CH2 NH_{2} NH_{2} NH_{2} NH_{2} NH_{3} NH_{4}

where:

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- R¹ and R² are independently phenyl or 4-fluorophenyl;
 R³ is hydrogen, C₁.6 alkyl or methoxycarbonyl;
 R⁴ is hydrogen or methyl;
 and metabolites and isomers thereof both as a free base and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.
 - 4. Use according to claim 3 wherein the compound of formula (I) is remacemide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
- 5. Use according to claim 3 wherein the compound is 2,3-diphenyl-2-propylamine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
 - 6. Use according to claim 3 wherein the compound is (S)-1-phenyl-2-(2-pyridyl)ethanamine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
- 30 7. Use according to claim 1 wherein the NMDA antagonist is memantine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
 - 8. Use according to claim 1 where the compound is 2-amino-N-(1,2-diphenylethyl)acetamide, alpha-phenyl-1H-pyrazole-1-ethanamine, (+)-N-ethyl-1-phenyl-1

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2-(3-pyrazine)ethanamine, or 2-amidino-6-(2-amino-2-phenyl)-ethylpyridine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

- 9. A method of treating or preventing irritable bowel syndrome which comprises administering to a patient in the need thereof a compound having NMDA antagonist activity or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
- 10. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome comprising a compound having NMDA antagonist activity and a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier.
- 11. Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10, wherein the compound having NMDA antagonist activity is a non-competitive NMDA antagonist.
- 15 12. Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10, wherein the compound having NMDA antagonist activity is a compound of formula I defined in claim 3.